



EMMANUEL MINISTRIES

October 16, 2008

Dear Friends,

“Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, the Lord, is my strength and my song, He has become my salvation.” Isaiah 12:12.

A month ago I sent you an e-mail plea for prayer and financial help for Emmanuel Ministries. Today I write with gratefulness in my heart, praises and worship for the provision that God has given Emmanuel Ministries through your support and prayers. The “big” amount of money that seemed unreachable last month is now a matter of gratefulness and a testimony of God’s faithfulness. He has provided for all of our expenses for September and for most of October and we are so grateful to the Lord and to all of you who prayed and fasted, called with concern and wrote emails joining in our petition to the Lord, and to all of you who sent your support believing God was calling you to answer to the needs of children miles away from you. May the Lord bless you and know that He heard your prayers on behalf of our children and this ministry, He has seen all our hearts and He has answered according to His great mercy and love. I know things in the financial world in the Untied States are very fragile, but I stand today as someone who knows that believing in God’s promises and believing in the invisible is hard but is also an amazing opportunity to learn to trust the Lord more and more each day. So today I thank you, in the name of the children, staff and all of us here at Emmanuel for through you prayers and support His promise “Those who know your name will trust in you, for you Lord, have never forsaken those who seek you.” Psalm 9:10.

God is doing wonderful things in our midst. I want to share with you about a recent trip my family and I had the privilege to make to Minnesota. We were invited to share about our children at Emmanuel and what the Lord is doing in their lives. We visited North Heights Lutheran Church, Emmanuel Covenant Church and other friends from the Ministry that live there. We felt very blessed and loved by everyone and our greatest joy was to see people’s desire to know what the Lord is doing at Emmanuel and our children here. For my children Levi and Batyah it was a totally new experience, it was the first time they were on a plane in their lives. That was very fun for them and they got to do a lot of fun things. Even though they don’t speak English they had a great time thanks to friends who took care of them while Joel and I were in meetings, they also felt so loved and welcomed. We want to thank all our friends in Minnesota who made us feel so blessed and loved and made our trip possible. May the Lord bless you and honor your hospitality and love for Emmanuel Ministries and us.

Following I want to share with you the story of Israel and Adrian, two little boys that came to Emmanuel children’s home a few months ago and are flourishing through God’s love and tangible care.



Adrian and Israel are two of our youngest boys. They have beautiful personalities, they are fun and sweet and very friendly. They love going to school every morning and playing with the rest of the little boys at the Infant dormitory. Adrian and Israel have a story that we sadly hear over and over. Carmen, Adrian and Israel’s mother, came from Veracruz looking for better opportunities. She met a young man at work and began a relationship. Soon she had Adrian and a year later she was pregnant with their second child. While pregnant she found out her partner had another family he had never told her about. She decided in that moment she did not want to live in a lie and that really her partner did not truly love her since he had been lying all this time. She left and asked her brother to help her until she could get established. She would go to work and her sister in law would watch her boys in the meantime. She would pay them for caring for them. But every time she left the boys would cry in panic. She discovered that they were physically and emotionally abusing her sons and not providing them with enough

food or personal hygiene. She then was told about Hogar de Ninos Emmanuel and how in this place people would take care of her boys and give them school. She thought a place like that could not exist and that if it did she could probably not afford it. She still had to try, and even though she has to ride the bus for 2 hours to bring them and pick them up for the weekend, for her boys she was willing to do it.



Her brother lets her use two rooms roughly built in the outskirts of Juarez where there are no streets and there are no sewer lines. I had the opportunity to go visit her house and my heart was broken. We had to drive two hours from HNE to her house. The two small rooms were in the middle of an ocean of wild weeds. She made the comment she was always afraid for Adrian and Israel to go out of the house because she was sure there were probably spiders and scorpions that could harm them, so she kept them inside during the weekend when she takes them home. The water truck comes every three days so she fills large drums to hold the water she will need to wash dishes and clothes and clean her two rooms. She does not have a bathroom and has not had the financial surplus to build one so she walks to her brother's house who lives ½ mile away when she needs to use the bathroom. For the boys she keeps a potty chair. Carmen works at an assembly line factory and has even worked up to three shifts at a time sleeping only 3 hours a day to make all her expenses. As a single mom she carries all the responsibility and she has decided even though there are other "more profitable" jobs where she could make more money, she loves her boys and does not want to put herself or them in any dangerous situations. It was a difficult thing for me to go drop her off and leave them there knowing now they live in such a vulnerable situation. It is very hard to know that this is how these children live in the majority of the families that we help at Emmanuel.

We feel so privileged to have the opportunity to care for children like Adrian and Israel. We feel grateful to have the opportunity to show these boys and the rest of the children we have at Emmanuel the Love of Jesus through the provision of a safe environment where their needs are met and they are able to grow up and be children and not worry weather they will have something to eat for dinner or not. Our children are the reason for Emmanuel to exist, and we feel pressed more and more to sow in them the Love of the Lord and the knowledge of the sacrifice of his son Jesus on the cross. We feel the time they spend at Emmanuel is precious for it is the opportunity we get to sow in their hearts the seeds of His word and then in faith we let the Lord do the rest. We believe in His word that says "train up a child in the way..." and in his promise "He that began a good work in you will be able to complete it".



Again, I want to thank you for your prayers and support, your faithfulness is a powerful testimony.

In Christ's Service,

Betel Lopez

